

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00729 261624Z  
ACTION EUR-12

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SS-15 NSC-05 /043 W  
-----270553Z 057934 /10  
R 261543Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
TO USIA WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7331

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0729

USIAC

USIA FOR IOP, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S NOTRE DAME ADDRESS

1. TIMINN, THE ORGAN OF ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S COALITION PARTIES, STARTED ITS EDITORIAL MAY 25 BY SAYING: "THERE ARE MANY INDICATIONS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH LAST SUNDAY ON NEW DIRECTIONS IN AMERICAN ATTITUDES TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS WILL PROVE TO BE A MILESTONE IF HE MANAGES TO CARRY THEM OUT". THERE THEN FOLLOWED A BRIEF RESUME ON THE CHANGING VIEW OF COMMUNISM AND THE FIVE MAIN POINTS OUTLINED BY THE PRESIDENT. THE EDITORIAL CONTINUED: "ACCORDING TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN, IT IS STRESSED THAT THIS SPEECH DOES NOT SUGGEST A DRIFTING AWAY FROM NATO, AS IT IS VITAL TO THE FUTURE AT A TIME WHEN NO AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED TO REDUCE THE ARMS RACE. ON THE OTHER HAND, NATO CANNOT BE RELIED UPON IN THE SAME WAY AS BEFORE, BUT RATHER, NEW METHODS HAVE TO BE SOUGHT TO BRING ABOUT WIDE REACHING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WITHOUT MILITARY ALLIANCES. THE FIVE POINTS RAISED (BY PRESIDENT CARTER) INDICATE HOW HE AND HIS ADMINISTRATION INTEND TO BRING ABOUT A NEW AND IMPROVED SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. MANKING IS IN DESPERATE  
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NEED FOR SUCH COOPERATION AND THUS THE VANGUARD EFFORTS OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL NATION SHOULD BE WELCOMED." (THE AUTHOR OF THE EDITORIAL IS CHAIRMAN OF THE ICELANDIC PARLIAMENT'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE).

2. THE REACTION OF THE RADICAL SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE ORGAN THJODVILJINN WAS PREDICTABLY DISTORTED.

IT DESCRIBED PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH AS "A CONTINUOUS ATTACK ON EARLIER AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY," CAREFULLY WORDED" BY PRESIDENT CARTER WHOM IT DESCRIBED AS "THE HIGHEST OFFICIAL OF A DIVIDED NATION." NOT CONTENT WITH THE WORDS ACTUALLY USED, THJODVILJINN INVENTED A PHRASE OF ITS OWN, "OUT-MODED TRUST IN NATO," WHICH IT QUOTED PRESIDENT CARTER AS SAYING. THE CENTRAL THEM OF THE EDITORIAL, ALSO PUBLISHED MAY 25, CAN BEST BE SEEN IN THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE: "AMERICAN PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH IS NOT ONLY A FORCEFUL ATTACK ON THE POLICIES OF AMERICAN PRESIDENTS IN EARLIER YEARS, IT IS AN ESPECIALLY HARD ATTACK ON THOSE PERSONS ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD WHO HAVE LOOKED TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AS AN IDOL - AND WE DO NOT HAVE TO LOOK FAR TO FIND SUCH A GOVERNMENT. ICELAND'S FOREIGN POLICY HAS, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, BEEN MARKED BY ITS SUBSERVIENCE TO THE AMERICANS." THE PAPER THEN WENT ON TO ATTACK ICELAND'S LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILY, "MORGUNBLADID", WHICH SUPPORTS THE GOVERNMENT: "WHEN HAS MORGUNBLADID CRITICISED NATO FOR "PEDANTIC ANTI-COMMUNISM?" WHEN HAS IT WRITTEN ABOUT "OUT-MODED TRUST" IN NATO? WHEN HAS IT CRITICISED THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT FOR "EMBRACING DICTATORS"? EVERYONE KNOWS THE ANSWER TO THIS - ICELANDIC CONSERVATIVES NEVER HAD."

3. OTHER MEDIA REACTIONS TO SPEECH WILL BE REPORTED AS THEY APPEAR.  
RANTANEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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